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**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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July 6, 2004

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION  
FOR WOMEN**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) that the Los Angeles County Commission for Women's sunset review date be extended to July 31, 2008.

**BACKGROUND**

The Commission for Women (Commission) was created by the Board pursuant to Chapter 3.64 of the Los Angeles County Code. The most recent renewal was approved by the Board at its March 14, 2000 meeting.

The Commission's mission is to represent the special interests and concerns of women of all races, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, religious convictions, social circumstances, and sexual preference. Its duties include:

- Study or investigate through meetings, conferences, public hearings, or forums, conditions which allegedly demonstrate discrimination or prejudice because of gender, marital status, or sexual preference.
- Research and disseminate information regarding sex discrimination and prejudice; and advise residents, the Board, departments, agencies, and other organizations on the needs of women relating to discrimination and prejudice.
- Investigate complaints or instances of prejudice against any person because of gender, marital status, or sexual preference.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

- Recommend procedures, programs, or legislation to promote and ensure equal rights and opportunities for all women.
- Develop and maintain a talent bank of women to assist the Civil Service Commission in recruiting women for qualification appraisal boards and the Commission.

The Commission consists of 15 members, three from each supervisorial district. Commissioners are entitled to receive \$25 per meeting, not to exceed three meetings per month. Four current members have elected to waive the stipend.

The Commission meets at least monthly. From January 1, 2000 to March 31, 2004 the Commission held 82 meetings with an average attendance of 9.6 (64%) members. The Commission's on-going activities and special events are supported by public and private donations.

### **JUSTIFICATION**

The Commission advises the Board on all issues affecting women. It is a link to the Board's understanding of and sensitivity to the needs of the women's community. The Commission gathers and communicates information to the Board on issues, policies, programs, and legislation that impact women and their families. During this review period, the Commission's accomplishments included:

- Issued the 2000-2002 Los Angeles County Commission for Women Status Report. This publication acts as a comprehensive resource guide for the women's community.
- Co-sponsored the annual 5K Run/Walk for Girls-at-Risk at the Rose Bowl. From 1999 to 2002, this event raised 105 scholarships of \$1,000 each to assist at-risk girls with higher education costs.
- Set-up a toll-free hotline to assist low income women with health related issues. During the first three months, this hotline received over 3,500 calls.
- Made recommendations to the Board to support legislation affecting women including AB 1084, to expand small business preferences for State contracting; AB 43, requiring an examination of compensation inequities between men and women in State civil service jobs; and AB 898, involving the use of DNA evidence in felony sex offenses.

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are as follows:

- Continue representing the special interests and concerns of women of all races, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, religious convictions, social circumstances, and sexual orientation.

- Continue working with the Affirmative Action Compliance Office and other departments to address problems of sexual harassment and discrimination at work, in the courts, and at schools.
- Continue to co-sponsor the annual 5K Run/Walk to raise money for at-risk girls and the Women of the Year Awards.
- Participate in the Older Women's Issues conference and hold community meetings at each supervisorial district.

Please call me if you have any questions .

JTM:DR:RD

Attachments

c: Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Robin A. Guerrero, Chief, Board Operations  
Jim Corbett, Manager, Commission Services  
Ruth Jernigan, Chair, Commission for Women

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
REVIEW COMMENTS

**Mission.** (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

Stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance creating the Commission.  
**CONCUR**

**Section 1. Relevancy.** (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The Commission advises the Board on all issues affecting women. It is a link to the Board's understanding of and sensitivity to the needs of the women's community. The Commission gathers and communicates information to the Board on issues, policies, programs, and legislation that impact women and their families. **RELEVANT**

**Section 2. Meetings and Attendance.** (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The Commission meets at least monthly. From January 1, 2000 to March 31, 2004 the Commission held 82 meetings with an average attendance of 9.6 (64%) members. **SATISFACTORY**

**Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results.** (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

During the evaluation period, the Commission's accomplishments included:

- Issued the 2000-2002 Los Angeles County Commission for Women Status Report. This publication acts as a comprehensive resource guide for the women's community.
- Co-sponsored the annual 5K Run/Walk for Girls-at-Risk at the Rose Bowl. From 1999 to 2002, this event raised 105 scholarships of \$1,000 each to assist at-risk-girls with higher education costs.
- Set-up a toll-free health hotline for women whose income is below 200% of the poverty line. During the first three months, this hotline received over 3,500 calls.
- Made recommendations to the Board to support legislation affecting women including AB 1084, to expand small business preferences for State contracting; AB 43, requiring an examination of compensation inequities between men and women in State civil service jobs; and AB 898, involving the use of DNA evidence in felony sex offenses. **SIGNIFICANT**

**Section 5. Objectives.** (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are as follows:

- Continue representing the special interests and concerns of women of all races, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, religious convictions, social circumstances, and sexual orientation.
- Continue working with the Affirmative Action Compliance Office and other departments to address problems of sexual harassment and discrimination at work, in the courts, and at schools.
- Continue to co-sponsor the annual 5K Run/Walk to raise money for at-risk girls and the Women of the Year Awards.
- Participate in the Older Women's Issues conference and hold community meetings at each supervisorial district. **RELEVANT**

**Section 6. Resources.** (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

Commission members receive a \$25 stipend for each meeting they attend, not to exceed three per month. Currently, there are four members that waive their stipend.

The Commission does not have a separate budget. Staff support for the Commission is provided by Commission Services of the Executive Office. The Commission maintains a trust fund of all donations received to support its activities. Requests for reimbursements and expenditures are approved by the Commission and forwarded to the Auditor-Controller's Disbursements Division. Warrants are issued against this trust fund. **WARRANTED**

**Section 7. Recommendation.**

**EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN TO JULY 31, 2008.**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
ATTENDANCE RECORD**

Commissioner	Nominated By	3/31/00	6/30/00	9/30/00	12/31/00	3/31/01	6/30/01	9/30/01	12/31/01	3/31/02	6/30/02	9/30/02	12/31/02	3/31/03	6/30/03	9/30/03	12/31/03	3/31/04	Totals	% Attend	
Number of Meetings per Quarter →		6	6	5	4	5	5	5	3	6	5	5	3	5	5	5	4	5	82		
Sophia Esparza	1st District	4	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	17%	
Olivia G. Rodriguez	1st District	6	6	5	4	5	4	5	3	6	4	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	76	93%	
Brenda C. Smith, M.D.	1st District	2	4	5	2	4	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0					22	35%	
Karin S. Davalos	1st District															0	3	4	7	50%	
Ruth Jernigan	2nd District	4	6	3	2	3	3	5	3	6	3	5	3	5	5	5	3	5	69	84%	
Ruth V. Creary, Ph.D.	2nd District	5	6	5	4	5	5	4	2	5	4	4	3	5	4	5	3	4	73	89%	
Yolanda Becerra-Jones	2nd District	4	5	4	3	4	2	4	2	6	5	1	1	4	1	0	3	4	53	65%	
Barbara Perkins	3rd District	5	5	5	4	4	5	4	3	5	5	2	2	4	1	3	2	4	63	77%	
Roslyn Reisel Cooperman	3rd District	5	5	4	3	4	5	5	3	6	4	5	3	5	3	5	4	5	74	90%	
Yvonne E. Mariajimenez, Esq.	3rd District				3	2	3	2	0	6	3	3	3	4	3	2	2	1	37	57%	
June Dunbar	4th District	5	5	3	4	5	4	4	3	1	0	0	3	1	0				38	56%	
Janet Elliot Mummey, Esq.	4th District	3	6	5	3	3	4	4	3	6	4	1	2	5	2	1	4	5	61	74%	
Charlotte Lesser	4th District		2	5	4	3	1	5	3	6	3	5	3	5	3	3	2	2	55	72%	
Anita Lugo King	4th District	0																	0	0%	
Bonnie J. Lewis	4th District															0	0	1	1	7%	
Susan Carpenter-McMillan	5th District	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	1	2	1	3	2	3	3	2		24	31%	
Wadie M. Gravely	5th District																	2	2	40%	
Reiko Duba	5th District	5	5	5	1	2	3	4	2	4	3	5	1	4	4	4	2	3	57	70%	
Lila Morgan	5th District	6	5	3	1	3	1	5	3	4	3	5	3	4	3	5	3	3	60	73%	
Totals		54	65	55	40	47	45	53	33	64	43	41	33	52	36	41	37	47	786		
Average Attendance per Meeting →																				9.6	